dating required reports. These reports are directed by the BCT surgeon cell with significant input from the SPO medical section.

The SPO medical section gathers and consolidates the required reports, synchronizes medical support as needed, and works with the SPO and the S–3 section to publish medical support requirements in a tactical order.

Since the SPO medical section is responsible for managing and maintaining the medical common operational picture (MEDCOP), it is also responsible for entering the reported data into the MEDCOP. The MEDCOP should contain the locations of roles of care, class VIII status, number of patients seen by type, and any other relevant information.

The MEDCOP, maintained in both digital and analog formats, uses the same maps as maneuver and logistics forces and is critical in improving situational awareness for the SPOs and decision-making commanders at all levels. Timely and accurate reports are required for the MEDCOP to be an effective tool.

This article is not designed to be the definitive reference for medical roles and responsibilities. It is each BCT medical team’s responsibility to discuss, establish, and publish its roles and responsibilities in the applicable standard operating procedure so that it can be easily understood and adhered to during operations. Hopefully, this article has helped to explain the importance of the SPO medical section and the ways that it can be integrated into the planning and orders process to support BCT operations.

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